FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 APRIL 1986

TWA Explosion

Italian claims that the bomb aboard the TWA airliner was placed by a passenger who boarded the plane at Cairo Airport were termed "fabricated stories" in a Cairo radio report accusing the Italians of trying to absolve the Rome Airport security authorities of responsibility for failing to detect the bomb.

Reporting the Italian defense minister's comments on the TWA explosion, JANA also noted his view that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's threats against Italy are "funny and do not scare us." While Tehran radio reported Al-Qadhdhafi's statement to UPI denouncing the bombing as a terrorist action, monitored Libyan media have not been observed to mention his remarks on the incident.

Libya

A Foreign Liaison Bureau spokesman cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio denied "rumors" that Col Al-Qadhdhafi's recent contacts with the Saudi and Moroccan kings were aimed at seeking ways to negotiate with the United States. The Jamahiriyah will not negotiate with the United States unless the latter pledges to behave as a civilized country and abandons its "terrorist" actions, the spokesman asserted.

Egypt

Police conscripts on trial for participating in the recent riots are charged with offenses that carry the death penalty, the attorney general disclosed at a news conference reported by MENA. Over 1,000 rioters will be tried by the courts, he said, noting that most of the defendants are conscripts.

Commenting on reaction to *AL-AHRAM*'s 31 March report that Egypt rejected U.S. calls for joint military action against Libya, *AL-AHRAM INTERNATIONAL EDITION stressed that this* article did not claim to speak on behalf of the Egyptian Government because *AL-AHRAM* rejects being described as Egypt's "semi-official" paper.

Sudan

Security police have arrested several supporters of former President Ja'far Numayri who are suspected of involvement in a plot to destabilize the country and seize power, Omdurman radio announced.

In another development, the defense minister stated that a military transport aircraft crashed near Bor 2 April due to "technical problems," SUNA reported. However, the clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) radio asserted that SPLA air defenses downed the plane with a SAM.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported a new escalation in the fighting between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen, noting attempts by Amal to tighten its siege round the Shatila and Sabra camps. Amal also transferred around 1,000 gunmen to Beirut from the Al-Biqa' Valley, according to the radio. The Voice of Lebanon pointed out that the fighting occurred on the eve of the Amal congress, which is expected to elect a new leadership and reorganize Amal's structure.

In other developments, Beirut radio reported the departure of the 45 French observers from Lebanon, while Jerusalem radio announced that an Army of southern Lebanon soldier was killed in a 4 April ambush in Israel's security zone.

Jordan-USSR

Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Countries Department, arrived in Jordan and met with Prince Hasan and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Amman radio reported, adding that the two sides discussed all aspects of the Palestine question and exchanged views on ways to reactivate the peace process.

Iran-Iraq War

IRNA reported that Iranian troops launched another attack northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah the night of 3 April, killing "hundreds" of Iraqi soldiers.

Iran

Announcing Mohammad Kazem Shariat-Madari's death from cancer, IRNA added that Shariat-Madari's title of ayatollah was removed after his participation in a 1982 coup plot. One of the former ayatollah's relatives told AFP that Shariat-Madari spent the last 5 years of his life under house arrest and that the authorities refused to let him seek treatment abroad.

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SARC Meeting on Economic Issues Opens in Pakistan

BK021042 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, inaugurated the 2-day SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministerial meeting on international economic issues in Islamabad this morning. Speaking on the occasion, he said an agreed position on these issues would enhance their ability to project and promote South Asia's vital interest in global economic negotiations and contribute to the realization of the Third World aspirations for the new international economic order. He hoped that the meeting would open a new and significant avenue of cooperation among the South Asian countries and establish modalities enabling the member countries to consult and coordinate their positions on international economic issues on a continuing basis.

The prime minister made an exhaustive review of the problem being faced by the 7-nation association. He noted that the SARC nations have made considerable progress in various fields over the past, but through national and collective endeavors these countries can emerge as a powerful force on the world economic scene. He asked the member countries to primarily focus their development strategy on the provision of health, education, nutrition, energy and other basic facilities to ensure the well-being of their people.

The finance minister, Mr Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, in his address of welcome said the meeting represented an important new dimension in mutual cooperation. He expressed the confidence that the deliberations of the meeting would result in positive and constructive proposals and recommendations.

The foreign minister of Bhutan in his vote of thanks expressed the hope that the meeting will consider all major economic issues confronting the member countries and adopt a common stand. The inaugural meeting was attended by federal ministers, senior officials and members of the diplomatic corps. Radio Pakistan's representative says that the regular session of the meeting begins this afternoon.

Declaration Urges Cooperation

BK040511 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministerial conference on international economic issues has adopted a declaration urging prompt measures by advanced nations and international institutions to improve economic conditions of developing nations and to create an environment for ensuring growth and equality of opportunity. The declaration was adopted at the concluding session of the conference in Islamabad today chaired by the federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto. It endorses the call by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo at its inaugural session for a new global dialogue to coordinate economic policies of the advanced and developed nations and also to take measures for a sustained and balanced growth in the world economy.

Realizing the need for the acquisition of knowledge in the field of science and technology, the ministers called for international cooperation to enable developing countries to derive advantages from the rapid technological development.

The declaration reaffirmed the proposal by nonaligned and developing nations for an international conference on money and finance for development and asked it to be convened soon. The SARC ministers also asked the United States and other industrial nations, especially those with large-scale (?capital), to contribute to world economic growth, particularly in developing nations, for more balanced international trade.

The conference said the debt problems should be solved on the basis of equity in the distribution of the burden of (?debt) [words indistinct] (?special concessions should be given to) low income and least developed countries.

The SARC ministers reiterated that peace, disarmament, and development are closely interrelate and called for halting the arms race including nuclear arms so that [words indistinct] amounts of resources (?vastly) can be utilized for development and benefit of all. The declaration said the major objective of a new round of multinational trade negotiations should be to preserve and to strengthen the multilateral trading system. The declaration urges industrialized nations to adopt appropriate industrial adjustment policies baed on dynamic advantage. It also calls for strengthening international cooperation in science and technology. It asks the SARC members to increase the conditions of transfer of technology within the group wherever suitable.

The SARC meeting confirmed the need to launch further negotiaiton which the Third World was discussing since 1979. The negotiations could not be (?held) because of the resistance of a few developed countries [word indistinct]

In his concluding speech, the chairman of the committee, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto said the decisions taken at the meeting have given a new meaning to unity and cooperation among the SARC countries.

Government Rejects Pakistani Border Charges

LD040633 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 3, BAKHTAR — Charge d'affaires of the embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA at 2:30 p.m. today and the following was conveyed to him by the director of the first political division:

The concerned authorities of the DRA report that despite the repeated protests of the Government of the DRA, the military authorities of Pakistan have continued their interventions and aggressions into the territory of Afghanistan.

For example, the counter-revolutionary elements together with the artillery units of the Pakistani Armed Forces have conducted repeated shellings by reactor rockets and heavy cannons against the frontier regions of the DRA, Chamkani Darzakhail, Marakhail and Bangesh of Paktia Province from March 10 to March 23, 1986. They have used in their shellings artillery multiple warheads which exist in the munitions of Pakistani ground forces.

Over one hundred civilians were either killed or wounded, fifty residential houses and four mosques were damaged and a large number of livestocks were killed due to these devilish shellings.

The Government of the DRA seriously denounce the aggressions of the military forces of Pakistan and lodges it severe protest with the Pakistani Government and demands from the Pakistani military authorities to put an end to such inhuman actions which brings nothing other than the deterioration of the situation in the borders.

It is clear that the grave responsibility of such aggressions will be borne by Pakistani authorities.

Likewise, the military authorities of Pakistan in order to camouflage their flagrant aggressions into the territory of the DRA have allegedly claimed that the Armed Forces of the DRA have once again attacked on the region of Mata Sanger Berchi and Kharlachi of Parachenar on March 22, on Nawaki region of Bajaur region on March 24, nearby the Chaman City on March 25 and on March 16, 26 and 27 once again on Nawaki region of Bajaur agency and on March 29 on the regions of Bahador Kali of Momand agency and Chag of Bajaur Agency.

The Government of the DRA after an accurate investigation call the Pakistani allegations false and reject them decisively and demand that the Pakistani authorities should put an end to such slanders.

Ministry of Civil Aviation Formed, Minister Named

LD040232 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] In accordance with the proposal by the DRA Council of Ministers and approval from the DRA Revolutionary Council, the Department of Civil Aviation is upgraded to the Ministry of Civil Aviation with Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban appointed minister of civil aviation.

Tribal Assembly Central Council Elects Officials

LD032229 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The first session of the Central Council of the High Tribal Jirga, chaired by Haji Muhammad Chamkani, vice president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and chairman of the High Tribal Jirga, was held this morning in the hall of the Department of Preventive Medicine. The executive Committee of the Central Council was elected and its draft charter, after discussion and debate, was approved.

Sulayman La'eq, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of nationalities and tribal affairs; Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the NFF Central Council; heads of PDPA Central Committee departments; representatives of social organizations; tribal chiefs and members of the Tribal Jirga Central Council took part in the work of the session.

The basic report of the session referred to the importance of the high border tribes Jirga in the history of our country and its results and all-round effects. It notes that the high tribal Jirga was created at a time when the brave people of Afghanistan, in the light of the glorious April Revolution, have achieved specific victories. Those taking part in the session specifically gave an assurance that the tribes and border clans are prepared to fully cooperate with the DRA Armed Forces in shielding and safeguarding the borders of Afghanistan and will struggle decisively on this path.

The report adds that the 154 members of the Central Council of the High Tribal Jirga, were unanimously elected by the High Tribal Jirga at its first session today.

During organizational work of the first session of the Central Council of high tribal Jirga, Haji Muhammad Chamkani, Vice president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and chairman of the High Tribal Jirga was unanimously elected as chairman of the Central Council of the High Tribal Jirga. Subsequently 11 persons were unanimously elected as members of the Central Council of the High Tribal Jirga, and 18 persons as members of the Executive Delegation of the Central Council of the High Tribal Jirga.

Daud Shah was elected as vice chairman of the Central Council and head of the Military Commission; Muhammad Ebrahim Ata'i as vice chairman of the Central Council and head of the Cultural Commission; Wakil Muhammad Hashim Mushwanay as vice chairman of the Central Council and head of the Commission for Securing Liaison; Safar Muhammad as vice chairman of the Central Council and head of the Economic Affairs Commission, and Besmellah Akbari as secretary for the Executive Delegation of the Central Council. The draft charter, after some amendment, was approved.

Besmellah Akbari, secretary of the Executive Delegation of the Central Council of the High Tribal Jirga then read the resolution of the session, which was approved.

At the end of the session Sulayman La'eq assessed the work of the session. He said that we are delighted that at today's session

we saw the high spirit of criticism. Now our elders and chiefs have perceived more than at any other time, their responsibilities in accordance with the demands of the revolution, and they work and struggle for the unity and cohesion of tribes, clans and fraternal nationalities of Afghanistan and for the development and progress Afghanistan's society.

After the playing of the DRA national anthem the session ended.

U.S. Missile Plans Designed To Harm Geneva Talks

LD032039 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 86

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Text] The Reagan administration has dragged the undeclared war against the DRA to a new phase. It is to provide the counterrevolutionaries with modern weapons — Stinger missiles. According to ABC television, the United States will dispatch the first batch of Stinger antiaircraft missiles to Pakistan to be passed to Afghan counterrevolutionaries by the CIA.

By this dangerous action the Reagan administration is (?taking part) directly in the undeclared war against the DRA. By this terrorist action, the Washington administration once again proves that R. Reagan — who hypocritically makes a hue and cry about the political solution of events around Afghanistan in order to deceive the world's public opinion — has intensified the undeclared war against the national sovereignty of an independent and nonaligned country, and is directly taking part in this war.

By supplying Afghanistan's counterrevolutionary bands with Stinger missiles the Reagan administration has aroused fear and a wave of revulsion among the world's political circles, and also in the United States and in [word indistinct]. U.S. Senate politicians have opposed this adventurist and dangerous decision of the Reagan administration. They believe that supplying such advanced weapon to Afghan counterrevolutionaries, whose evil hands are soiled with the blood of thousands of innocent children, women, and men, will undoubtedly increase regional troubles and in general will fan international tension.

This shows very well that the Washington administration hysterically fans provocation and tension in the world, and does not want the world's people to live in peace, particularly the people of those countries who have chosen an independent line against Washington's (?dictates).

The Reagan administration tried to keep secret the decisions to supply Afghan counterrevolutionaries with advanced Stinger missiles, and to avoid commenting on this issue. However, the fact was disclosed by the U.S. media. Arming Afghan counterrevolutionaries with U.S.-made advanced weapons displays the blatant and hostile U.S. interference in the DRA's internal affairs, and is an example of the Reagan administration's policy of state terrorism. The Reagan administration, which has transformed the policy of state terrorism into official policy, now wants to show that interference in the internal affairs of the DRA has been upgraded to official policy.

On the eve of the Afghan-Pakistani talks, which will soon begin in Geneva, the United States has embarked on supplying the Afghan counterrevolutionaries with dangerous weapons. This decision means that Washington is trying to disrupt the atmosphere surrounding the talks and to create obstacles to a political solution of events concerning Afghanistan.

The bosses of Washington and their aggressive allies must know that Stinger missiles cannot weaken the determination of our people; as before, the stone of disappointment will hit the face of imperialism and its servants.

BAKHTAR Observer Denies Country Illicit Drugs Base

LD300524 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 29, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: U.S. attorney general, Edwin Meese, in a recent press conference in Islamabad inpudently alleged that Afghanistan is a source of illicit drug problem to the world. Anyone who is aware of the drug problem in the world understands how White House statesmen want to misinform the public and to distort the facts.

The highranking U.S. representative has been amazingly quiet about drug problem in Pakistan which is famous as a major exporting country of narcotics and earns annually over 3 billion dollars from its production and smuggling.

The anti-narcotic international seminar in New Dehli confirmed the fact that 70 percent of heroin which is sold in the U.S. and West European black market are exported there from Pakistan. The daily *NATIONAL HERALD* of India exposed the fact that the influential figures of Ziaul Haq's regime at the level of ministers, generals, governors and diplomats are [words indistinct] involved in the smuggling of narcotics.

In a press conference in Kabul this fact was revealed to the domestic and foreign journalists that Fazil Husain, brother of Fazil Haq, former governor of Peshawar, is in prison in the FRG on charges of heroin smuggling.

It should be pointed out that in the smuggling deal the Afghan counter-revolution has a good share and is earning a large amount of money from this source.

The high-ranking representative of Reagan administration, who is the initiator of this slander against our people, should have said that the Afghan counter-revolution is the main exporter of narcotics from Pakistan into the territory of Afghanistan. The security forces of the DRA had detected hundreds of kilogrammes of heroin which was imported here by the counter-revolutionary elements and this is the irrefutable proof in this [words indistinct]

Thus, it is clear that the sinister visit of Edwin Meese to Pakistan is not directed to discovering the main sources of production and export of narcotics but it is aimed at distorting facts and to start a new propaganda slander of the U.S. imperialism against the people of the DRA.

One can conclude that the United States plays the role of international gendarme and follows a policy based on state sponsored terrorism in the world. However, human history testifies to the fact that any state which has followed such a policy has not gained anything but ignominy and disgrace.

Mass Media Achieves Considerable Gains

LD020726 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0452 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 1, BAKHTAR — In the light of the lofty objectives of the April Revolution of 1978 and the progressive policy of the party and state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan considerable gains have been scored in the sphere of mass media in the country.

In the post-revolutionary years, radio transmission stations were set up in the provinces of Herat, Qandahar, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Farah and the Khowst Division aimed at upholding and blossoming the rich culture of the brother nationalities inhabiting in the country.

With the broadcasting of first radio program of the "Afghan Ghazh" (Afghan Voice) on March 21, 1986 in Pashto and Dari languages, the broadcasts of Radio Afghanistan reached eighty hours a day. It is envisaged that with the completion of the new radio transmission project, the possibilities of broadcasting of 150 hours radio programs in 24 hours will become feasible.

The agreement on the project for construction of television studios in Kabul has been signed with the USSR, and the construction work will be started during the current Afghan year, begun March 21. With the completion of the project, during the [words indistinct] years, the possibilities of recording and broadcasting of 15-20 hours colour TV programs and the parallel broadcasting of programs in two channels will become feasible throughout the country.

With the acquistion of membership of the international organization of OIRT [International Radio and Television Organization] it has become possible for the DRA to exchange TV programs with the neighbouring countries.

At present, making use of the Shamshad installation, the important events of the country are broadcast one a week to the members of the OIRT. With the assistance of the USSR, it has become possible to transmit the TV programs of the capital to a number of provinces through satellite.

The provinces of Herat, Qandahar, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Farah, Badakhshan and Khowst Division have TV stations and they have three hours broadcasting daily. The Kabul TV broadcasts are utilised for elimination of illiteracy as well.

Daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR*, which is the most circulated daily in the country, has a circulation of 80,000 copies daily, which exceeds the total circulation of all dailies, periodicals and magazines published in the pre-revolutionary years. The present circulation of all dailies of the country exceeds 500,000 copies while the circulation of the dailies in the pre-revolutionary years hardly reached 40,000 copies.

The circulation of the dailies of the provices, published in the languages of the brother nationalities has doubled.

Besides the dailies and periodical, the State Committee of Publication of the DRA publishes a large number of books. The total number of books published during the last five years by the committee has exceeded 800 titles and a total circulation of 33 million copies.

Rajiv Gandhi Interviewed on Cyprus Issue

NC040748 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 2 Apr 86 p 13

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by *MILLIYET* Chief Editor Mehmed Barlas in New Delhi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Barlas] What are you views on Turkish-Indian relations?
[Gandhi] They are developing, but the progress here has been very slow. We favor a more rapid development of these ties, and feel that a joint commission would probably be helpful.

[Barlas] Why has the pace been so slow?
[Gandhi] That is difficult to explain.

[Barlas] Were there any obstacles in the past?
[Gandhi] Not as far as I know.

[Baras] Our friendship with Pakistan probably had an effect on Turkish-Indian relations.
[Gandhi] Why should that be?

[Barlas] Your continued support for the Greek Cypriot cause in your capacity as leader of the nonaligned bloc has most likely had an adverse impact on Turkish-Indian ties.
[Gandhi] Let me clearly state our policy on Cyprus. We favor an independent and nonaligned Cyprus free of foreign interference.

[Barlas] But there is a problem: More than one nation [ulus] can live in a given country. If one of these nations does not acknowledge the existence of the other, internal strife and even division may follow. Bangladesh was part of Pakistan once. You have recognized and supported Bangladesh.
[Gandhi] But there were no foreign troops there.

[Barlas] But as far as you were concerned, the Pakistani soldiers were foreign troops, weren't they?
[Gandhi] Yes.

[Barlas] The same thing applies to Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots ignored the Turkish Cypriots. They committed massacres, and attempted to unite the island with Greece.
[Gandhi] There are no such things now, and there is no longer any talk of "enosis."

[Barlas] Well then, what do you think of Prime Minister Papandreou's Pan-Hellenic Socialism? Doesn't Pan-Hellenism embrace Cyprus as well?
[Gandhi] I do not think that enosis is among their current goals. We do not support enosis.

[Barlas] While the UN secretary general was busy drafting a plan for Cyprus, the Soviet Union submitted its own outline for a solution of the problem. What is your opinion of this Soviet initiative?
[Gandhi] This plan will be discussed next month at a meeting of ministers from the nonaligned states. Essentially, we back the UN's proposals and the work of the UN secretary general. Let me reiterate the following point: We favor an end to the tension in Cyprus, and want to see an independent and nonaligned Cyprus among us.

[Barlas] I keep referring to the Cyprus issue because you are now the leader of the Nonaligned Movement. An act of foreign intervention occurred in Cyprus 12 years ago. An extension of the Greek colonels in Cyprus staged a coup and toppled Makarios. Completely ignoring the Turkish Cypriots, they wanted to proclaim enosis. Why don't you take all this into consideration and discuss the existence and rights of the Turkish Cypriots?
[Gandhi] No, no, we have never disputed the rights of the Turkish Cypriots. We want things in Cyprus to return to normal. We seek an independent, nonaligned Cyprus free of foreign troops. Neither Greece nor Turkey should rule the island. We want Cyprus to rule itself. Let the two communities resolve the problem.

[Barlas] The Turkish Cypriots accepted UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposal to bring the two communities together, but Greece and the Greek Cypriots rejected it. They did not even come to the negotiating table.
[Gandhi] We support the efforts of the UN secretary general regarding the Cyprus issue.

Swiss Foreign Minister Offers Technical Help

BK031256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Switzerland has offered technical assistance for India's developmental programs. The Swiss foreign minister, Mr Pierre Aubert, made the offer when he called on the industry minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in New Delhi today. The two leaders also agreed to institutionalize industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Welcoming the Swiss offer, Mr Tiwari said India would like to collaborate in the fields of textile machinery, power generation, chemicals, and drugs. He also impressed upon the visiting Swiss minister the need to rectify the adverse balance of trade against India.

Aubert Speaks to Press

BK031634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Switzerland has offered technical assistance for India's developmental programs. The Swiss foreign minister, Mr Pierre Aubert, made the offer when he called on the Industry minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in New Delhi today.

Later speaking to newsmen, Mr Aubert said that he had wide-ranging international and bilateral talks with Indian leaders. During his discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Bhagat, there was a reference about the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and the Tamil refugees in his country. He said when Mr Bhagat voiced India's concern about Switzerland sending back the Tamil refugees, he had explained that there is no mass deportation. He assured Mr Bhagat that no one will be sent back without India's consent.

Haryana, Punjab Chiefs Welcome New Commission

BK031623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The chief ministers of Haryana and Punjab have welcomed the setting up of a new commission by the center to identify the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab to be given to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, [Haryana chief minister] Mr Bhajan Lal said that the appointment of the commission is in the national interest and the implementation of its recommendation will help improve the situation in Punjab and strengthen communal harmony in the region. Mr Bhajan Lal urged the people of his state not to be misled by any false propaganda by opposition parties. He expressed confidence that the commission will do justice to Haryana.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, welcomed the decision and said that he is glad to note that the commission will submit its report by the 31st of May and the transfer of Chandigarh will be effected not later than 3 weeks after the report is submitted. He said that the Punjab government is committed to implementing the Punjab accord in its entirety.

The general secretary of the Lok Dal, Mr Sharad Yadav, has criticized the appointment of the commission. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said that the appointment of the commission reflects the confusion and indecisiveness of the government on the subject.

The appointment of the commission was announced by the home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, in the Lok Sabha last night. It will consist of Mr Justice E.S. Venkataramaiah, a judge of the Supreme Court.

Punjab Casualties Reported, Curfews Relaxed

BK031601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were injured when some unidentified gunmen fired at them in a village near Batala today. The condition of one of the victims is stated to be serious.

The situation in all the nine curfew-bound towns in Punjab continues to improve. A 15-hour curfew relaxation was given in Kapurthala from 0600. In Batala, Muktsar, Jullundur, and Pathankot, the curfew was relaxed for 12 hours from 0700. In Hoshiarpur and Hajipur the curfew was relaxed from 0800 to 1900. The curfew in Ludhiana was relaxed twice from 0800 to 1200 in the morning and 1400 to 1800 in the afternoon.

In Jullundur, curfew is being lifted totally from tomorrow morning. This is being done after the situation in the city has returned to normal. In Nakodar, curfew has been extended up to Monday [7 April] morning.

'Suspected Terrorist' Escapes From Police

BK040326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] A suspected terrorist, Harjinder Jinda, escaped from police custody in Ahmedabad yesterday. Jinda was arrested in Delhi last January. He was taken to Ahmedabad in connection with a bank robbery. He gave slip to the police when he was being taken to the court. A massive police hunt has been launched to apprehend Jinda.

Kabul Charge of Cross-Border Shelling Rejected

BK031529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul administration's protest of yesterday alleging that Pakistani artillery units shelled Chamkani, (Dara Kheyl), (Mara Kheyl), and (Bangash) areas in Paktia Province from 10-23 March. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and was told that the Kabul administration's allegations have been investigated and found to be baseless.

Karachi Reports Cordovez Remarks on Afghan Talks

BK040928 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan has said that the seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan crisis will be held in Geneva on 5 May. Cordovez, who is working as an intermediary in the talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Karmal administration, told a news conference in New York that the deadlock regarding the format of the Geneva talks has been broken and that the previous format of negotiations will remain effective so long as the four instruments regarding this crisis are finalized. Cordovez refused to disclose how the deadlock was broken. He, however, said that they have finalized several documents of understanding which are very clear, encouraging and unambiguous.

He said the need for an eighth round will not arise as the viewpoints of the parties concerned have come much closer to each other. The issues which have been under discussion so far include the withdrawal of Soviet forces, and international guarantees for outside noninterference and for the return of over 4 million Afghan refugees — most of whom have taken refuge in Pakistan — to their homeland.

Continuing Reportage on Visit of UK's Howe

Calls on Ziaul Haq

BK031730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. He handed over a message of goodwill for the president from the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. They discussed the regional situation including Afghanistan and the progress toward political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Relations between India and Pakistan were also reviewed. The president reiterated Pakistan's desire to bring normalcy in its relations with India. The British foreign secretary paid tributes to the president for the restoration of democracy in the country.

Meets Junejo, Attends Dinner

BK040403 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] With the members of his delegation, the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, called on the prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Rawalpindi yesterday. He extended an invitation from the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, for Prime Minister Junejo to visit Britain this year. The date will be fixed taking mutual convenience into consideration. He had a detailed exchange of views on various matters including the regional situation and the Afghanistan problem. Sir Geoffrey Howe lauded the prime minister for the successful promotion of the democratic process in Pakistan.

The prime minister and the British foreign secretary expressed satisfaction ever bilateral relations between the two countries. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was also present on the occasion.

Later, the prime minister hosted a dinner in honor of Sir Geoffrey Howe and the members of his delegation.

Visits Afghan Refugee Camps

BK041029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The British secretary of state for foreign affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, visited an afghan refugee tentage village at Kachagarhi near Peshawar today. Talking to refugees, he said Britain fully supported the efforts of the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general, Mr Cordovez, in finding out a solution to the Afghanistan problem. He appreciated Pakistan's constructive and courageous contribution. He said it now remains for the Kabul regime and the Soviet Union to do likewise and to set a timetable for immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Mr Howe declared that Britain would do everything possible to further a political solution of the Afghanistan problem.

Later talking to newsmen, Sir Geoffrey Howe described the repeated violations by Kabul regime of Pakistan's airspace as a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. These violations, he added, were aimed at bringing about pressure on the people of Pakistan.

BANGLADESH

Majority of 16-Party Front To Contest Elections

BK031556 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Eleven component parties of the 16-party Jatiya Oikyo [National Unity] Front have decided to take part in the forthcoming Jatiya Sangsad [parliamentary] elections to help establish democracy in the country. The decision was taken at the meeting of the front held in Dhaka today under the chairmanship of Mr A. S. M. Sulaiman.

Opposition Seeks 'Neutral' Caretaker Government

BK040348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, some opposition parties have announced a campaign to put pressure on the government to end martial law and hold elections under a neutral caretaker government. The 7-party alliance led by Begum Khaleda Zia and five leftist parties at a joint news conference in Dhaka threatened to boycott the parliamentary polls scheduled for the 7th of next month. They said that if their demands are not conceded, they would launch an antigovernment agitation.

Chittagong Medical College Closed After Clashes

BK280910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the medical college in Chittagong has been closed following armed clashes between groups of students. All India Radio Dhaka correspondent Prabhakar Mishra reports that one group owes allegiance to a political party which has agreed to take part in the May parliamentary elections. The other is opposed to participation.

Police Detain 20 at Dhaka College Residences

BK020748 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Dhaka, April 2 (AFP) — Police have swooped on college residences here and detained 20 people, some of whom allegedly belong to a "terror group," a police spokesman said Wednesday [2 April].

Most of those arrested in the swoop Tuesday "are non-students belonging to a terror group" who had forcibly occupied rooms in three hostels of Dhaka College, the spokesman said. Weapons recovered during the raids included firearms and explosives, he added.

The spokesman said that among those held was a man identified as Mr. Sawar, who had been sought in connection with several murders and who was the leader of the group.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Rules Out Sending Emissary to Delhi

BK031108 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali has said that there will be no emissry from Sri Lanka going to New Delhi to initiate peace talks between the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamil representatives and terrorists. However, the minister said that Sri Lanka still appreciated India's efforts in helping to settle the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka also appreciates the peacemaker's role played by former Indian foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari.

Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the government has prepared the ground for peace talks and for a negotiated settlement. He said that the offensive antiterrorist activity had been scaled down and government had called the halt on air attack on terrorist hideouts and invited the terrorists and others for discussion.

Delhi Cites Minister's Statement on Ethnic Issue

BK030643 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] In Colombo, three Sri Lankan cabinet ministers have asked President Jayewardene to devise a framework for early political settlement of the ethnic crisis. Talking to newsmen after a cabinet meeting, the minister of state, Mr Anandatissa de Alwis, said the Sri Lankan Government is looking forward to India's help through an emissary.

The finance minister, Mr Ronnie de Mel, told our Colombo correspondent, Plaban Majumdar, that peace formula acceptable to the major Tamil groups and the majority Sinhalese community should be worked out. Mr De Mel said about 98 percent of the Sri Lankans now want peace.

In an incident at Mankulam near Kilinochchi 8 soldiers including 1 officer was killed and 3 injured when militants blasted a landmine. An official press release from the ministry of national security said 6 persons described as militants were also killed when the forces fired immediately after the incident.

2 Million Rupees Worth of Arms Seized 31 Mar

BK021150 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The interception of a massive arms consignment worth some 2 million rupees on the eastern coast of Sri Lanka on Monday [31 March] has thwarted terrorist plans to launch a massive offensive.

Defense Ministry officials said yesterday that the weapons were wrapped in polythene paper but seawater had seeped into some of the packages confirming that the goods had come by sea. Among the items seized were 5,000 mortar shells, 2,000 rounds

of ammunition used for anti-aircraft weapons, cartridges, Czechoslovakian-made pistols, 400 kilograms of gelignite, AK-47 rifles, MAU-3 rifles, grenades, ammunition belts and arms pouches. The detection was made by police commandos who rushed to the beaches of Sittandi on the tip-off that arms and ammunition were being unloaded. The arms were being unloaded on to two tractors whenthe commandos intervened. The Defense Ministry suspects that an East European vessel, (*Enlamat*), spotted off Tirukkovil last Friday [21 March], may have been the source from which the weapons were unloaded and brought ashore. In a gunbattle which ensued, two terrorists were killed.

The loss due to damage to the terrorist-attacked (Jawaldarbi) train is nearly 60 million rupees. The general manager of railways, (C.P.S. Veerasuriya), yesterday briefed transport minister, M.H. Mohamed, on Saturday's bomb attack at Omantai which completely destroyed the train. The ministry said that a decision was taken to have discussions with the Ministries of Defense and National Security to map out security for the future operation of trains in the Jaffna Peninsula. Work is now on to repair the damage to the track.

8 Soldiers, 6 Terrorists Killed in 2 Apr Clash

BK031117 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Terrorists attacked a military convoy proceeding from Kilinochchi to Vavuniya in north Sri Lanka yesterday, killing eight soldiers. The terrorists first blew up one of the vehicles of the convoy with a landmine and immediately after the explosion fired automatic weapons. Following this attack, the troops in the other vehicles carried out a counter operation and as a result 6 terrorists were killed and about 20 were injured.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD041150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Our Muslim conpatriots throughout the country observed the political-religious Friday prayers rites today. Tehran's citizens, with their presence in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, also observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

In his Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council referred to the outcome of the recent victories scored by Islam's combatants during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations by saying: These operations have changed a great many problems and a great many of Saddam's supporters have come to realize the facts to a certain extent. Al-Faw's liberation has demonstrated to Saddam's supporters that our combatants could also liberate Basra and Baghdad and that this war could have a military victor and this victor would be Iran.

Referring to the recent moves being carried out by the supporters of the Iraqi regime aimed at saving that regime from an inevitable downfall and the unstinting help given by Arab reaction to that regime Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Regional reaction has placed its oil, roads, ports, propaganda, and espionage capabilities at the disposal of the Iraqi regime. Those of Saddam's supporters who may think that their fate is the same as that of Saddam are making a mistake. They should consider their fate as being separate from that of Saddam. They should not consider our counsels as threats nor continue to prop up the Iraqi Ba'th Party, which is on its way to destruction, to the last moment, as this is not possible. The Islamic Republic of Iran is not calling for an extension of the war and rendering the region insecure. We are expecting Saddam's supporters to learn a lesson from the "Val-Fajr-8" operations as our serious warning in action, but if we notice that our counsels, messages and practical warnings are of no avail, then, with the help of the nation's strata and the armed forces, we shall solve the problem of the war.

Reportage, Commentary on Bush's Mideast Visit

Calls for Oil Price Stability

LD021441 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] London, April 2, IRNA — The U.S. Administration has made a U-turn on oil price policy and for the first time has showed an interest in raising the price of oil following Tuesday's fall below $10 a barrel in New York and London. However, Middle Eastern oil industry analysts described the American move as an attempt to hide responsibility for the oil price collapse conspiracy.

Vice President George Bush said Tuesday he would stress in his meeting with Saudi leaders when he arrives in Riyadh at the end of this week that the continuation of the oil price decline was not in America's national interest and Washington would want to see stability back in the market. He acknowledged that the dramatic two thirds drop in the oil price in just four months had "caused some hardship" particularly to American oil industry multinationals and the "continued free fall" should cease.

The United States until now had responded enthusiastically to the sliding prices which was triggered by doubled output from its follower, Saudi Arabia. But after the sharp cut in the price during the past week and a forecast of a drop to $8 or even $5 per barrel by the U.A.E. oil minister, the Reagan administration reversed its position with an expression of concern from Energy Secretary John Herrington Monday.

Mr Bush said cheap oil would reduce inflation "but when it gets to damage your national security interest or gets to throw a significant number of financial institutions into turmoil, to say nothing of the people in the energy industry, that cuts the other way."

But Middle Eastern industry observers are skeptical about the American move. One obvious reason is that Saudi Arabia is America's staunchest ally among the Arab oil producers and would consider such key issues with American officials before taking them up.

An Iranian oil industry source in London saw the latest signals from Washington little more than a political move to deny responsibility for the oil price collapse through its agents in the region. But he said Washington would like to keep prices at $10 to $15 a barrel, still more than half of what it was last November.

On Tuesday, oil prices dipped below $10 a barrel in London and New York markets before recovering slightly. Continued overproduction by most OPEC members and warmer weather were the main reasons given for the latest drop.

The oil industry sources said unless OPEC members came to a genuine agreement to reduce production in their meeting later this month, the price could dip further to around $8 per barrel.

He said most OPEC members and other oil analysts believed that Iraq had become the main stumbling block in the way of OPEC unity and was producing 50 percent more than its OPEC quota of 1.2 million barrels a day. The Iranian source said the circumstances being such as they are there is little hope for the next meeting.

U.S. Concerned Over Iraqi 'Defeat'

GF311442 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Apr 86

[From the "Voice of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush will undertake a tour of the Gulf region to last several days. This tour, scheduled to begin next week, will include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the YAR.

U.S. sources have stated that the Bush tour comes in implementation of what they called the U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the Gulf region. Observers view the visit of the U.S. vice president as evidence of U.S. concern following the defeat inflicted on the 'Aflaqist forces in Al-Faw battles.

U.S. Problems in Mideast Cited

LD031850 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 3 Apr 86

["Bush Visit Reflects U.S. Problems in Mideast" — IRNA headline]

[Text] London, April 3, IRNA — American Vice-President George Bush's visit next Saturday to Saudi Arabia is reportedly the outcome of the ever-dwindling oil prices. Saudi Arabia — one of America's most loyal allies in the Arab world — triggered the fall of the crude price by doubling its production. The initial price drop was welcomed by the U.S. Administration as it seemed certain to help lower inflation and interest rates in the West.

However when the continued oil slump appeared to be a "threat to U.S.n ational security interests," Vice President George Bush said Washington would like to bring pressure to bear on Riyadh to help stabilize the market.

Yet the oil connection is but one minor side of the whole story. The real issue lies elsewhere. In a nutshell, France, the U.S. and Britain are worried about the ideological transformations that has swept among the masses in the region in recent years, which threaten their political and mainly economic presence in the region.

These developments culminated with Iran's thrust into Iraq's Al-Faw Peninsula in the south and into Iraqi Kurdestan in the north. Iran's Val-Fajr 8 and 9 operations sent a shudder among Iraq's financial backers in the Persian Gulf, especially as the Iranian gains took the Islamic Forces within a few miles of Kuwait's border.

This new development was followed by a flurry of "diplomatic" activities involving basically Britain and America. Timothy Renton, Britain's Middle East affairs chief, toured a number of states in the south of the Persian Gulf some two weeks ago. Britain has been competing with France and the U.S. in selling arms to the regional states. In 1985 the British secured an unprecedented military aircraft order including 72 Tornado warplanes from Saudi Arabia and a smaller Tornado order form Oman.

In his recent visit Renton indirectly encouraged Kuwait to step up its military potential, taking advantage from and exaggerating its rulers' fears on Iranian action against them, which Tehran has tried with increasing success to dispel. He stated that Britain would examine a request for war material "quickly and sympathetically." Kuwait is said to be keen on expanding its air force.

Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President George Bush's tour to the Persian Gulf next Saturday has several reasons that are interwoven to a certain extent. The U.S. official will visit Oman, Bahrain and North Yemen but will focus on Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. Administration has been trying to convince Congress to give the go-ahead to a $354 million sale of anti-aircraft missiles to the Saudis, arguing endlessly that the package would deter an Iranian "attack" on America's Arab allies and pose absolutely no danger to Israel.

Congressmen are well aware of the lack of hostility between Riyadh and Tel Aviv but they would want to exert more pressure on the Kingdom to use its influence particularly on the Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat to accept the Israeli-American scheme for Mideast "peace".

Bush who had talks with the Zionist premier Shim'on Peres in Washington Monday was "grateful" that the Israelis did not pressure Congress to completely veto the Saudi deal. Bush will also mention the Israeli proposal for a new American "Marshal Plan" to save the shaky Arab regimes from Islamic popular uprising. The Saudi rulers, who have worriedly observed a certain radicalization of the Islamic movements, especially in Lebanon, will certainly not turn down the Zionist plans.

The U.S. has not swallowed their humiliations in Lebanon which their forces had to leave, and have not been able to rescue the release of several American hostages held by Muslim groups.

Bush will probably try to involve Riyadh in some strategy designed to undermine Muslim activists in the region.

The American vice president is also expected to brief the Saudis on recent Iraqi-Israeli rapprochement and possible arms and military cooperation in the wake of Iran's successful capture of strategic areas, most importantly in southern Iraq.

Tehran Arabic Commentary

GF031905 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. policy concerning the Gulf region clashes with a number of facts about recent developments. The first is the disruption of the balance of power in the region after the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, which liberated a wide area of Iraqi territory. The Saddam regime's retreat in these operations lowered the popularity of the joint reactionary Ba'thist alliance.

It was natural that this would reflect on the U.S. equation, which was set by the White House administration as it treated this region as one of the regions vital to U.S. security. The Persian Gulf region is the first strategic defense line for the United States, which has relied on the oil wealth of this region, the primary reason for the U.S. victory during World War II.

During the past 2 decades, the U.S. Administration treated the Gulf region as if it is part of the United States. It tampered with the waters of the Persian Gulf as if this Gulf is a U.S. basin. It established military bases in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Oman. The United States won the sultan of Oman's signature to allow U.S. forces to use Omani territory. Under the shah, everything was going according to the plans of the U.S. policy makers. However, after the shah's fall and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, the U.S. strategy in the Gulf region was disrupted and the United States had to review its strategy.

The second fact the United States is facing in the Gulf region is the drop in the popularity of Gulf regimes which are still trying

to fill their arsenals with U.S. arms or with arms from countries which are Washington allies. Since the shah's fall, the United State has encouraged these countries to purchase arms to achieve two goals — to turn the region into a military arsenal against what threatens U.S. interests and to activate the U.S. economy which has been facing a steady deficit and a relative drop in production. The drop in the popularity of these countries will lead to a shrinkage in the sale of U.S. advanced weapons. Washington, through the 8-day tour of George Bush to four Gulf countries, will try to study the situation closely, after which it will adopt the necessary solutions to face the two forementioned challenges. But to what extent will this policy succeed and to what extent will Washington succeed in overcoming its difficulties?

Death of Ayatollah Shariat-Maderi Reported

LD032009 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April, 3, IRNA -- Mohammad Kazem Shariat-Madari died of cancer in a Tehran hospital Thursday afternoon. A Qom resident, Shariat-Madari was moved to Tehran recently for treatment of cancer of the kidney. His family were present in the hospital as he passed away.

In 1982 Shariat-Madari participated in a coup against the Islamic Republic and several top theologians voted for taking away his ayatollah title. Later in a television program he acknowledged the coup participation.

Merdad Hospital where he was treated is one of Tehran's most advance medical centers.

AFP: Further Details

AU040730 Paris AFP in English 2359 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Paris, April 4 (AFP) — Kazem Shariat-Madari, one of Iran's seven "grand" ayatollahs and a critic of Imam Ruhollah Khomeyni, died on Thursday in Teheran at 82 after spending the last five years of his life under house arrest, a relative told AFP Thursday.

Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who had been ill for some time, was taken to hospital in Teheran three weeks ago after his condition deteriorated.

According to his relative, the Iranian authorities had refused the family's requests to let him leave to seek treatment abroad.

The relative, questioned by telephone from West Germany, said the ayatollah's body had been returned on Thursday evening to the holy city of Qom, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of the capital, where only the family had been able to see it.

It was not known when the funeral would take place, he said.

Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who helped to pave the way for the triumphant return from exile of Ayatiollah Khomeyni, fell from grace in April 1982 when he was accused of being implicated in a plot against the government masterminded by former foreign minister, Sadegh Ghotbzadeh. He was believed to prefer a less rigid interpretation of the Koran and disagreed with Ayatollah Khomeyni over the clergy's dominant political role.

Ayatollah Shariat Madari was born in Tabriz, in Turkish speaking Azerbaijan.

'Sources' Claim Iraq Received Jordanian Military Aid

GF021530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Apr 86

[From the "Voice of Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] Well-informed sources have said that Saddam requested the help of Shah Husayn during the first days of the "Val-Fajr-8" battles by requesting the intervention of his special forces to drive the forces of Islam out of the region they had liberated.

Shah Husayn replied that the dispatch of his special forces would cost $2 billion and that this sum would have to be paid prior to the issuing of a royal edict. There were differences over this issue, which was finally settled after the intervention of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which pledged to pay this sum to the shah.

Last week, 'Adnan Talfah, Saddam's cousin and his defense minister, told the correspondent of the swindling Radio Monte Carlo that the forces of Shah Husayn and other forces were taking part in battlefield operations. He said that they were stationed at the rear.

It is worth noting that most Iraqi POW's stress that the forces brought in to rescue Saddam are stationed behind the lines. Their duty is to execute any Iraqi soldier who, for whatever reason, withdraws from the confrontation line with the soldiers of Islam. That is why hundreds of Iraqi soldiers who have been forced to fight the soldiers of Islam have preferred to be taken prisoner by the soldiers of Islam rather than be killed by Shah Husayn's cameleers and Mubarak's mercenaries.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraq Deploys Chemical Weapons

LD032043 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran accused Iraq of deploying chemical weapons against the city of Abadan on March 23d and 24th.

Raja'i-Khrosani, Iran's representative at the United Nations, in a letter to the UN secretary general, stated that (?they) may call for the redispatch of the UN expert group to Iran in order to investigate the chemical weapons. The said letter further notes that if the Security Council had been interested in strengthening of the Geneva 1925 Protocol it would not have stopped at only condemning Iraq, and would have instead adopted more serious measures coupled with punishment against Iraq. For this country, in accordance with the (?clear-cut report) of the UN secretary general, has resorted to deploying chemical weapons against Iranian forces.

Iraqi Bridge Bombed

LD031711 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA — Iran's fighter planes bombed a bridge in north Iraq Thursday as artillery gunners hit economic centers further south amid skirmishes along the 1,200 km war front. The daily military communique here said several fighter bombers raided a bridge 10 km east of Rawanduz in Iraq's Irbil Province before returning safely to their bases. Lately Ibril Province has been the scene of hit-and-run attacks by Iraqi Kurdish Mujahideen seeking the overthrow of the Iraq regime.

Further south, Iranian artillery shelled economic and industrial centers of Ban-Mil Township, Naft Khaneh and Sardarbani-Khan causing heavy damages, said the communique. In return, Iraqi shelling damaged several houses and shops in the port city of Abadan, according to the communique.

Iraqi patrols also tried to infiltrate Iranian positions in Jofeyr of the southern front but were forced back by Iran's Muslim combatants.

The military communique is published daily by the Joint Staff of the Military Headquarters in Tehran to report war developments in the past 24 hours.

It said artillery gunners shelled Iraqi positions in the Western front destroying 15 bunkers, four observation posts, five mortar launchers, several vehicles and one ammunition depot.

Artiliery exchanges continued throughout the fronts but it was reported heavier in the Shervani and Zobeydah of the southern sector.

Combat-patrols in the northwestern front destroyed several Iraqi bunkers and one heavy engineering vehicles while in the south they setup new observation posts to control enemy activity.

The communique reported the gendarmerie forces stationed near Abadan involved in skirmishes with Iraqi engineering units. It said Iraqi troops suffered casualties there.

'Hundreds' of Iraqis Killed 3 Apr

LD040940 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ, April 4, IRNA — Hundreds of Iraqi troops were killed in an infiltration operation launched by Iran's Islamic combatants on heights overlooking the Iraqi city of Chuwartah in Val-Fajr-9 theater northest of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Thursday night.

The Iranian forces attacked the heart of enemy positions destroying many of their bunkers and killing all the Iraqi personnel stationed there.

A number of enemy tanks and tens of light weapons were also demolished in this successful operation. The Islamic combatants all returned to their bases safely after carrying out the operation.